

SW/TJ

July 2019



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer

As I write, the GCSE and A Level Examinations have finished and our Year 11 and Year 13 students have begun their summer holiday. The feedback that we received from students was that they felt very well prepared for their examinations and they were full of praise for their teachers who, once again, went 'the extra mile' to support the students in their care. I am sure that this hard work will be rewarded when students receive their results in the summer (Thursday 15 August for A Level and Thursday 22 August for GCSE).

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in our Vision and Values consultation which has now ended. Our Academy culture, ethos, community and tradition are built on our values. It is these values which dictate and shape our future. The demands placed on our young people leaving secondary education are changing and it is no longer enough for school leavers to arm themselves with a collection of academic qualifications.

Working in Partnership with Parents

There is a great body of research suggesting that, between the ages of 11 to 13, young people become increasingly influenced by their peers, rather than their parents and teachers! While young people wrestle with the challenges of 'peer pressure', it is important that we work together to support them. Therefore, we place great importance on the value of working in partnership with parents for the benefit of the young people in our care. Let me remind you of the opportunities offered each year to parents to meet with teaching staff.

Year 7 'Settling in' Evening

For parents and guardians of Year 7 students, we know how important it is to be reassured that your child has settled into school well and is happy. We would like to invite you into school on Tuesday 24 September. It will be an opportunity to raise any concerns you might have or to respond to any queries. The tutor is the first point of contact for all of our students, and the adult that they see every day so we firmly believe that the partnership with parents begins with your relationship with our tutors.

Parent Consultation Evening

Every year group has a Parental Consultation event calendared into the school diary (key dates enclosed). This is an opportunity for parents to discuss with staff their child's progress and attitude to learning and to seek support on how their progress can be maximised. Over three-quarters of our parents attend these events and the feedback we receive is extremely positive. All parents are invited and we would like to see as many parents there as possible.

Parent Information Evening

The world of education is forever changing and we understand that, for parents, it can be difficult to keep up with the changes taking place and the language and terminology used by teachers.

Collective Aspirations: Individual Success



To help you to support your child and to engage with teachers, we offer four Parent Information Evenings throughout the year. These are led by members of the Senior Leadership Team and aim to highlight support available to help parents navigate this complex landscape. Please do come and join us.

Attendance and Punctuality

Students' attendance rates at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College are above the national average and the highest across The Consortium Academy Trust. This is an area of significant improvement in the Academy in recent times and I thank you for your continued support. However, while many students manage 100% attendance throughout the year, others may be much lower. We believe 'Good' attendance, allowing for bouts of unavoidable illness, to be at least 97%. This should be the minimum target for all students. Research suggests that attendance below this figure begins to impact on a child's educational outcomes.

Attendance below 90% (four weeks absence per year) over five years is the equivalent of missing half of an Academic year of education and will have a significant impact on outcomes.

We know that illness can be unavoidable, but please do let us know about an illness in adequate time (by 9.15am) and if you are experiencing difficulty in your child attending school, please get in touch (01482 899315) with Miss Jennings our Attendance and Welfare Manager or your child's Pastoral Manager in order that we can offer support.

And, finally, please do think twice about booking an unauthorised term-time holiday!

Behaviour Policy

Our students tell us that they have a clear understanding of the Academy's Behaviour System and the Positive Discipline system. They, and visitors, also comment that they feel safe. We constantly review our behaviour policy to ensure that it is relevant and effective and we will communicate any significant changes to you via letter and the [Academy website](#). We fully appreciate the support given to us by parents in ensuring that the Academy is a place where all students are safe, happy and able to flourish.

Having students wear a uniform that they can be proud of is an important part of the Academy's ethos and values, and we will always deal appropriately with breaches of this policy. Once again, we urge you to support our Uniform policy fully. We also regularly discuss our Behaviour and Uniform policy with students. To that end, there are some minor changes that I would like to bring to your attention: **Footwear – must be plain, black and polishable** (please see examples below). **No logos should be displayed. Trousers – no leggings or jean like material are permitted.**



Permitted – shoe type



Not permitted -trainers

School Building Refurbishment

As you may be aware the main school building was constructed in January 1954 and since then it has expanded considerably, including the Upper school, main reception, and library and Sixth Form blocks. In recent years we have seen improvements to roofing and windows in the Lower School.

We are excited to inform you that over the summer period we are going to see the start of some major works going on around the Academy. This has been possible due to a large amount of funding that was made available from the when we transferred over to The Consortium Academy Trust. Some of the works have already been completed such as the perimeter fencing around the field, upgrading of the fire alarm system and new LED lighting. But, the major projects start this summer. Our student council has been involved in highlighting the main issues of concern from the student's perspective on possible areas for improvement. The works include: replacing the original water mains throughout Lower School (Upper School was done several years ago), Student toilet facilities will be completely renovated, removal of all fixtures and fittings and replaced with new floor to ceiling cubicles, new flooring and wash basins with the added benefit of CCTV in appropriate areas to allow the students to feel safe. Some areas of the Academy will also be fitted with new flooring to further enhance the learning environment.

Centralisation of Finance

Please note that there will no longer be Finance Officers based at the Academy from September. This forms part of the centralisation of services across The Consortium Academy Trust, and Finance Officers will be based at our TCAT offices in Cottingham. We therefore encourage parents to use the online payment system detailed below.

Online Payment System

For a number of years, the Academy has provided the option for parents to pay online for trips, visits and catering; our records and our conversations with parents indicate that this option is now by far the most preferred method of payment and our catering system is now completely cashless. However, from 1 September 2019 the option to pay by cash or cheque for trips, visits or, for the majority of items made available to purchase onsite will no longer be available. We therefore request that all parents register to use our online payment system via the following link <https://www.scopay.com/southholderness> by 1 September 2019. To do this you will need an activation code, which will be sent in a separate document prior to 1 August. If you require support setting up a cashless account, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to email finance@holderness.academy

Please note, we will continue to accept small amounts of cash from students and staff to support charities such as Comic Relief and Children in Need, as we are able to pay directly into charity bank accounts, incurring no charge or financial administration. We will also continue to accept small voluntary donations from parents towards transportation costs incurred for students to travel to and from sporting fixtures and other similar local events.

Vehicle Access to the Academy Site

Although we have high levels of safeguarding deterrents in place across the Academy, the site remains exceptionally busy, especially at the start and end of the day. If you are dropping your child off on the school site, please use our Visitor Car Park. In addition, the disabled parking bays should not be used without the relevant documentation to support this.

We would like to wish all members of our school community a happy, healthy summer and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 3 September for Year 7 and 12 and Wednesday 4 September for all students.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Wilson
Headteacher